

# News from Ed Markey

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

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## **IRAN'S NUKES HIGHLIGHT INCOHERENCE OF BUSH ADMINISTRATION POLICY ON AXIS OF EVIL**

*Administration "Lurching from Crisis to Crisis," says Markey*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.-** Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Non-Proliferation, today released the following statement in response to press reports regarding Iran's possible nuclear weapons program:

"We've known for a long time that Iran has been pursuing nuclear weapons. As an oil-rich nation, the notion that Iran needs to use nuclear power to generate electricity— a much more expensive and more controversial source of electricity than oil — is ludicrous. Yet despite possessing billions of barrels of oil in the ground, Iran has been building nuclear "research" reactors for years, and the Russians are now contracting with Iran to sell additional reactors, a step which the United States opposes because of Iran's clear intention of using them to enhance its nuclear weapons expertise."

"Unfortunately, the ability of the U.S. to cope with these new developments is in question. Instead of adhering to a consistent approach to curtailing the development of weapons of mass destruction, the Bush Administration has been lurching from crisis to crisis. While the Administration has been unwavering on Iraq, it has been ineffective on North Korea, and hypocritical both on Iran and on the home front, where the U.S. is initiating the development of "mini nuke" weapons and plutonium pits -- casting legitimate doubts on our commitment to reducing our nuclear arsenal.

"When we've objected to the Russian sale of nuclear expertise to Iran, Russia turns around and asks, quite rightly, why Russia should abstain in Iran when we are selling two nuclear reactors to North Korea. The United States and Russia both need to uphold their nonproliferation obligations and refuse to sell nuclear reactors to states that cannot be trusted to stand by their treaty commitments."

"Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency have not been able to enter two new Iranian sites that may be used to enrich uranium and produce heavy water, both key ingredients for nuclear bombs. To end the uncertainty as to the purpose of these plants and to comply with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Iran should immediately allow IAEA inspectors into these plants. Iran's statement that the inspectors will be allowed into the sites in February is too little, too late.

"To restore some level of coherence to U.S. policy, the Bush Administration should follow the same approach to Iran and North Korea that it has followed in Iraq — seek appropriate resolutions from the UN Security Council condemning these violations of international law and treaty provisions, and insist on thorough UN-backed inspections to test the truthfulness of denials. Moreover, the Administration must also cease its own policies that are counterproductive to its nuclear nonproliferation goals.

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